

KENNEDYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (K-371)  
Kennedyville, Maryland  
(1860)

In its form and detailing this Gothic Revival building closely resembles St. James Church near Hanesville (K-234,) a slightly earlier church (1853) which is more elaborate in design. Local tradition holds that the St. James congregation sponsored the Kennedyville Church. This church building is brick with a wooden belfry.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K - 371

MAGI # 1503714508

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC KENNEDYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER Northwest side of Route 213 at junction  
with railroad tracks

1st

CITY, TOWN

Kennedyville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME Kennedyville United Methodist Church  
c/o Rev. J. Chapman O'Dell

Telephone #: 301-648-5212

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Galena

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21635

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #: No reference

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

K-371

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Gothic Revival in design, the Kennedyville Methodist Church is located near the northern edge of Kennedyville at the junction of Route 213 and the railroad tracks.

The building is ~~three~~-bay-long and three-bay-wide brick structure with a generous gable roof and a square bell tower engaged in the southeast (front) facade. The rafter ends of the roof are exposed and shaped and the plate, approximately 4" square, projects beyond the gable wall, becoming a decorative feature.

The bell tower, which contains the vestibule, is constructed of brick to the ridge-pole. It is capped by a hipped roof which serves as the base of the belfry. Modillion blocks are set under the eaves of this roof. The belfry is wooden and capped by a pyramidal roof with flaring eaves. Three ornamental bracketts are located in each facade with pairs of similiar, but longer, bracketts at the corners.

The four faces of the tower are made of vertical boarding below a "chairrail" and diagonal boarding above. The bell itself can be seen through single lancet arch openings in each side of the tower. The finial is cast iron.

The building is constructed of dark-orange bricks laid in common bond with random courses of headers. The corners are emphasized by simple pilasters. There is additional decorative brick work in the delination of the gable ends and in the mouse tooth-and-corbel work just below the cornice line of the bell tower.

Windows and doors are set into lancet shaped openings with double-rowlock arches. Window frames are very narrow but have an additional molding set adjacent to the brick work. In the bell tower is a tall double-hung window of diamond-shaped opalescent glass. Elsewhere the windows are figurative, as noted below.

The main entry has a pair of narrow one-panel doors and a transom bar with wooden

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1860      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following excerpt from the records of the Methodist Protestant Church describes the early history of the building:

In the minutes of the Old Kent Circuit of the Methodist Protestant Church there is this notation: At a quarterly conference of Kent Circuit held at the St. James Church, Worton, on May 5, 1860, the following resolution was offered by the Rev. John R. Nichols: "That as a quarterly conference we heartily approve of the movement to build brick church at Kennedyville for the use of the Methodist Protestant Church..." The church was built under contract and deeded August 30, 1860. Being incorporated in July, 1860, the church was first called "Waters Chapel" after the Rev. Frances Waters, D.D., who was president of the old Maryland Conference and Washington College. February 11, 1865 records the liquidation of the Waters Chapel debt.

The builder of the original church was John T. Dodd and Son. The addition was constructed in 1962-63.

In its form and detailing this building closely resembles St. James Church near Hanesville (K-234,) a slightly earlier church (1853) which is more elaborate in design. Local tradition holds that the St. James congregation was the sponsor of the Kennedyville Church and close ties between the congregations may have resulted in the employment of the same builder or architect.\*

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY ( \* see page 2)

K-371

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records of Methodist Protestant Church.

Interview with Reverend J. Chapman O'Dell.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

778-4600, ext.67

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

dentils. The stained glass transom light fills the top of the lancet opening.

The Gothic Revival influence on interior detailing is seen primarily in the selection of interior decorative motifs and in the molding profiles used. The entrance from the vestibule to the sanctuary is through a lancet arch opening hung with a pair of double doors. The altar, too, is framed by a wide lancet opening. The room is surrounded by narrow beaded-board wainscoting finished by a chairrail with composite moldings. The pews, as well, show Gothic influence in the use of an applied quatrefoil design on the arm end and oak leaf heads.

The interior walls of the sanctuary are white plaster and the ceiling is covered with boarding stained medium brown and divided by exposed beams into four bays. The chancel rail and choir rail have turned balusters and a molded hand rail.

Stained glass windows visible from the sanctuary are dedicated to former church members. Their figurative designs suggest that they date from the early 20th century.

Both the interior and exterior retain most of their original fabric and the building can be used as a guide to date similar structures. Unfortunately the integrity of the building has been affected by modern additions to the side and rear which show little sympathy to the design of the chapel.

The Methodist Protestant Church was one of the three branches of Methodism that made-up the United Methodist Church, organized in 1939. This branch was the smallest, at its height limited to about one million members, and was centered in Maryland with a seminary in Westminster.

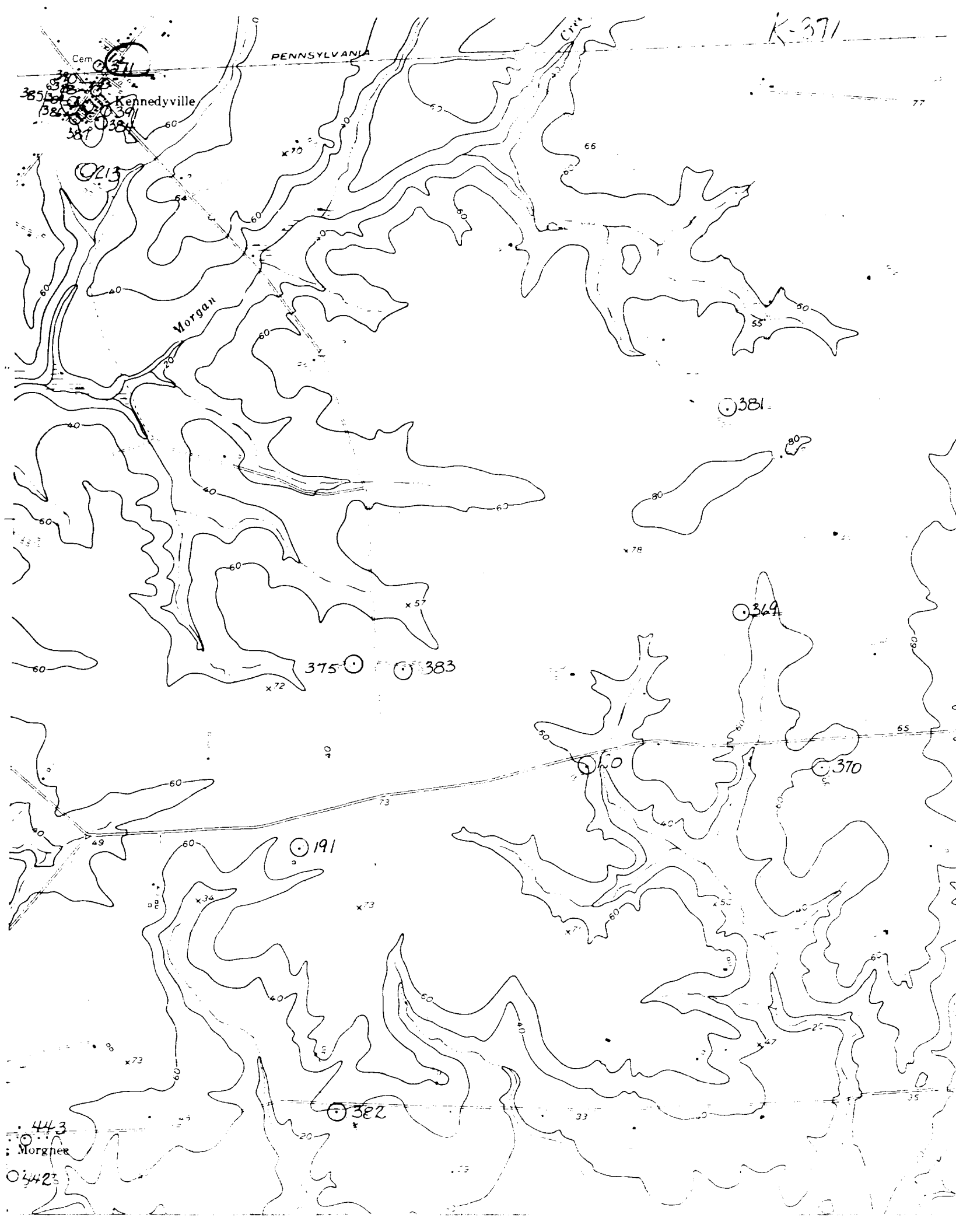
Its theology emphasized the independence of its congregations and the importance of lay leadership. Instead of a strong centralized governing board, for example, its regional Bishop had little administrative power.

In the two decades before the Civil War numerous Methodist Protestant congregations constructed country churches in the Gothic Revival Style all over the Eastern Shore.

The St. James and Kennedyville churches are significant both as examples of the Gothic Revival church architecture of the mid-19th century and as a reminder of the importance of the Methodist Protestant Church to the history of religion in Maryland.

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- \* Resolution of this question would require locating the Kent Circuit records for the period. If they exist they may be housed either in Galena, Maryland, at Barretts Chapel in Frederika, Delaware, or at the National Repository in Winston-Salem, N.C.



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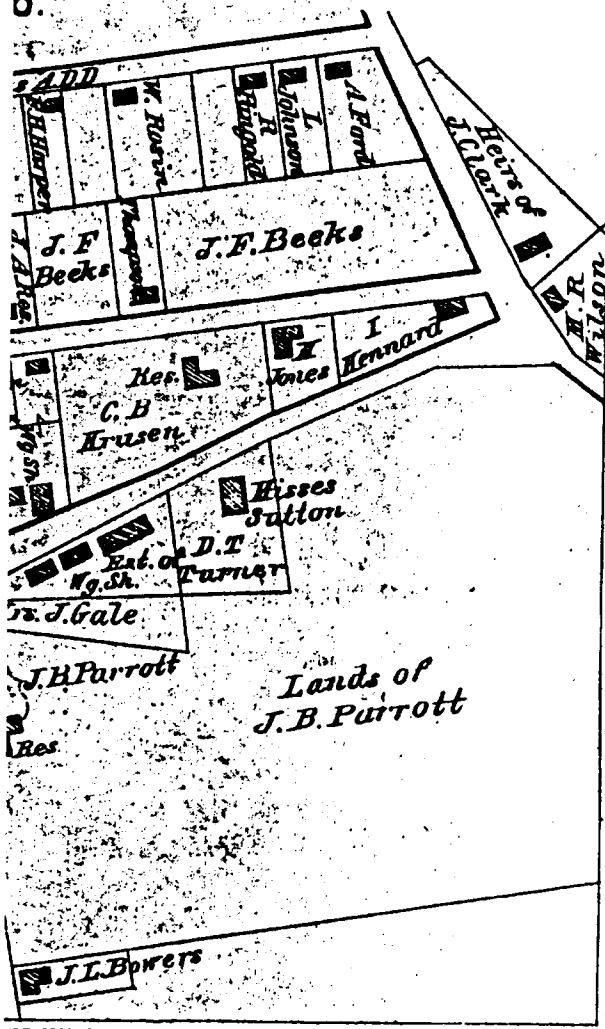
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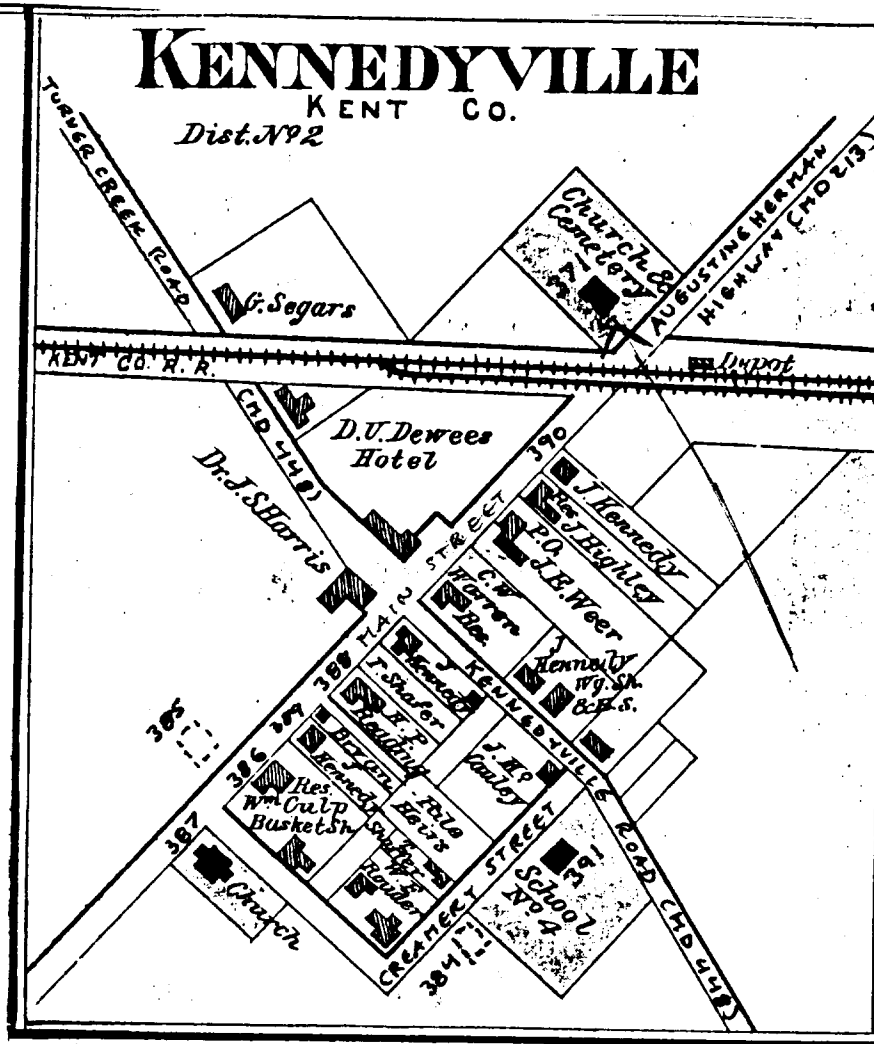
## KENNEDYVILLE BUSINESS REFERENCES.

**WILLIAM S. CULP**, Carpenter and Builder, and Manufacturer of Peach-baskets. Orders solicited.  
**C. H. J. SPARKS**, Proprietor of Cash Store. Is now offering to the public a full line of Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, and other Articles usually kept in a country store. Ready-made Clothing always on hand, or ordered at short notice. My Goods were bought for cash, and can offer bet-

# KENNEDYVILLE

KENT CO.

Dist. No. 2



**SAMUEL S. HOPKINS**, Proprietor of Urieville Flouring Mill. Best Grades of Family Flour manufactured and kept on hand for sale at all times, also Custom Work done at all times. All persons are solicited to give me a call. 2½ miles from Kennedyville.

**J. F. POTE**, Blacksmith at Urieville. All kinds of Blacksmithing done with neatness and dispatch. All persons wanting anything in my line will please give me a call. 2½ miles from Kennedyville.

**A. STRONG**, Wheelwright at Urieville. All kinds of Wheelwrighting done with neatness and dispatch. Persons wanting anything in my line will do well to give me a call. Shop 2½ miles from

# CHES

Dist. No. 16

12-371



YVILLE  
LUTHERAN  
CH

9:40 AM

10:45 AM

DELL  
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K-371

Kennedyville U. M. Church

View to Northwest

Kennedyville

Kent County

M. L. Fritz

2/1980

J. Tyler Campbell  
FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER  
CHESTER TOWN, MARYLAND